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ARTIST EMPLOYMENT IN 1988

Total employment in eleven artist occupational groups stood at 1,505,000 in 1988, virtually the same as in 1987 (1,503,000). This is the smallest year to year increase (.1%) since the 1981-82 recession, when artist employment declined. The total number of unemployed artists decreased slightly from 55,000 in 1987 to 52,000 in 1988, causing their unemployment rate to decline from 3.5% to 2.9% of all artists in the labor force.

Employment statistics for artist occupations (and for the population as a whole) are obtained through the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey. A respondent is defined as employed if, during the survey week, he/she did any work at all as a paid employee, in his/her own business, profession, or farm. Each employed person is counted only once and those holding more than one job are counted in the job in which they worked the greatest number of hours during the survey week. The occupation of the employed respondent is determined by the survey coders who assign a code to each questionnaire based on the responses to questions about the kind of work the person performed and what their most important activities or duties were.

The labor force (the number employed and unemployed) for Professional Specialty Occupations increased 3.6% over the year; for all Civilian Workers the increase was only 1.5%. The size of the artist labor force was virtually unchanged over the year, declining by less than .1%. Employment growth in 1988 for all Professional Specialty Occupations was 3.8% and 2.2% for all Civilian Workers. The unemployment rate (i.e., the number of unemployed workers as a percent of the total labor force) for all these groups continues to decrease from 2.0% to 1.7% for Professional Specialty Occupations, from 6.2% to 5.5% for all Civilian Workers, and from 3.5% to 2.9% for artists.

Among the individual artist occupations, labor forces decreased over the year for announcers, authors, designers, musicians and composers and photographers. The largest percentage decline in labor force was among musicians and composers (11%). The artist occupations that experienced

increases in their labor force were actors and directors, architects, dancers, painters, sculptors, craft artists and artist printmakers and teachers of art, drama and music as well as other artists. Teachers of art, drama, and music had the highest percentage increase in their labor force, nearly 20%, followed by actors and directors with a 14% increase.

Unemployment rates increased for actors/directors, architects, and teachers of art, drama and music (higher ed.), occupations that experienced labor force growth in 1988. Unemployment rates also increased in some occupations in which the labor force declined, namely, announcers, authors and designers. Declines in unemployment rates occurred in the following fields which saw an increase in their labor force: painters, sculptors, craft artists and artist printmakers and teachers of art, drama and music as well as other artists not elsewhere classified. For musicians and composers and photographers, the decline in their unemployment rate was accompanied by a shrinkage of their labor force as a whole. Many of the year to year changes in unemployment rates were small, and, in many cases, not statistically significant. (See note on Table 1.) Unemployment rates for dancers were not calculated because the number of persons in this occupational group is too small for reliable estimates.

Employment Trends, 1983-1988

The unemployment rate for all Civilian Workers has dropped from 9.6% in 1983 to 5.5% in 1988, and for Professional Specialty Occupations the decline was from 3.0% to 1.7% in 1988. For artist occupations as a whole, the unemployment rate has decreased from 6.0% in 1983 to 2.9%, rising only once over the period from 4.7% in 1984 to 5.0% in 1985.

The labor force for all Civilian Workers increased by 9% from 1983 to 1988. Over the same time period, the labor force for Professional Specialty Occupations increased over 15% and for all artist occupations the increase was nearly 20%. Similarly, the artist occupations showed the greatest increase in employment from 1983 to 1988, increasing by 23% compared to 17% per Professional Specialty Occupations and 14% for all Civilian Workers.

Trends for individual artist occupations are summarized below:

Actors and Directors

The unemployment rate for actors and directors was 10.6% in 1988; below the 1983 unemployment rate of 15.7%, but not as low as the 1986 rate of 7.7%. The labor force for actors and directors increased by nearly 58% from 1983 to 1988, the largest percentage increase in any of the artist occupations. The number of employed actors and directors in 1988 stood at 100,000--two-thirds greater than the 1983 level of 60,000. This was also the largest percentage increase in employment of any artist occupation over the five year period.

Announcers

The unemployment rate for announcers was 6.4% in 1988, only slightly below its 1983 rate of 6.7%. The labor force for announcers was 37% higher in 1988 than in 1983. The number of employed announcers in 1988, 52,000, was also about 37% higher than the 1983 level.

Architects

The unemployment rate for architects in 1988 was 1.2%, well below the 4.3% rate of 1983. Over the same time period, the labor force for architects grew from 108,000 to 145,000, an increase of over 34%. The number of employed architects grew by 39%, from 103,000 to 143,000.

Authors

The unemployment rate for authors in 1988 was .9%, down from 2.5% in 1983. The labor force for authors grew from 64,000 in 1983 to 83,000 in 1988, an increase of 30%. The number of employed authors in 1988 was 82,000, 32% higher than in 1983.

Dancers

The unemployment rate for dancers is not provided in this data base because this occupation is so small that a reliable estimate of unemployment is not possible. The labor force for dancers was 17,000 in 1988, nearly 42% higher than the 1983 level of 12,000. The number of employed dancers in 1988 was 16,000, 60% higher than in 1983.

Designers

The unemployment rate for designers was 2.8% in 1988, well below its 5.2% rate of 1983. The labor force for designers 525,000 in 1988, 27% higher than the 415,000 reported in 1983. The number of employed designers in 1988 was 510,000, nearly 30% more than in 1983.

Musicians/Composers

The unemployment rate for musicians/composers in 1988 was 4.6%, well below their 8.6% rate of 1983. The labor force for musicians/composers was 158,000 in 1988, 7% lower than their 1983 labor force of 170,000. The number of employed musicians/composers was 151,000 in 1988, down from 155,000 in 1983. Musicians/composers were the only artist occupation to record a decline in either labor force or employment from 1983 to 1988.

Painters/Sculptors/Craft Artists/and Artist Printmakers

The unemployment rate for painters/sculptors was 2.0% in 1988, down from 3.3% in 1983. The labor force for painter/sculptors was 219,000 in 1988, as compared to 192,000 in 1983--an increase of 14%. The number of employed painters/sculptors was 215,000 in 1988, 16% higher than in 1983.

Photographers

The unemployment rate for photographers in 1988 was 3.6%, down from 5.0% in 1983. The labor force for photographers was 121,000 in 1988, only 1.7% higher than in 1983. The number of employed photographers in 1988 was 117,000, 3.5% higher than in 1983.

Teachers of Art, Drama, and Music (higher ed.)

The unemployment rate for teachers of art, drama and music (higher ed.) in 1988 was 2.7%, greater than the 2.2% reported in 1983. This was the only artist occupation with a higher unemployment rate in 1988 than in 1983. The labor force for teachers of art, drama and music (higher ed.) increased by 14% from 1983 to 1988. The number of employed teachers of art, drama, and music (higher ed.) also increased by 14%.

Other Artists (Not Elsewhere Classified)

The unemployment rate in this heterogeneous group in 1988 was 2.1%, substantially below the 7.1% reported in 1983. The labor force for other artists stood at 72,000 in 1988, 9% above the 1983 level of 66,000. The number of other artists employed in 1988 was 16% higher than in 1983.

CAVEATS: This Research Division Note on artist employment trends is the sixth employing the new Occupational Classification System put into effect in the Current Population Survey in 1983. The changes improve the consistency and accuracy of the artist occupational groups. Care should be used in comparing these data with data from earlier years when the previous Occupational Classification System was in effect (see Research Division Note #7).

Table 1. Artist Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment, 1983-88

Occupation	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983
Total, All Civilian Workers	121,669,000	119,865,000	117,834,000	115,462,000	113,544,000	111,550,000
Employed	114,968,000	112,440,000	109,597,000	107,150,000	105,005,000	100,834,000
Unemployed	6,701,000	7,425,000	8,237,000	8,312,000	8,539,000	10,717,000
Unemployment rate	5.5%	6.2%	7.0%	7.2%	7.5%	9.6%
Professional Specialty						
Occupation	15,249,000	14,726,000	14,228,000	13,946,000	13,629,000	13,219,000
Employed	14,974,000	14,426,000	13,911,000	13,630,000	13,286,000	12,820,000
Unemployed	266,000	300,000	317,000	316,000	343,000	399,000
Unemployment rate	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%	2.5%	3.0%
All Artists	1,557,000	1,558,000	1,500,000	1,482,000	1,418,000	1,301,000
Employed	1,505,000	1,503,000	1,439,000	1,411,000	1,351,000	1,223,000
Unemployed	52,000	55,000	61,000	71,000	67,000	78,000
Unemployment rate	2.9%	3.5%	4.1%	5.0%	4.7%	6.0%
Actors and Directors	112,000	98,000	93,000	91,000	78,000	71,000
Employed	100,000	88,000	86,000	77,000	68,000	60,000
Unemployed	12,000	10,000	7,000	14,000	10,000	11,000
Unemployment rate	10.6%	9.8%	7.7%	15.4%	13.3%	15.7%
Announcers	56,000	62,000	58,000	54,000	59,000	41,000
Employed	52,000	59,000	55,000	51,000	55,000	38,000
Unemployment	4,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	4,000	3,000
Unemployment rate	6.4%	4.7%	5.9%	5.3%	6.2%	6.7%
Architects	145,000	136,000	135,000	133,000	109,000	108,000
Employed	143,000	135,000	132,000	130,000	107,000	103,000
Unemployed	2,000	1,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	5,000
Unemployment rate	1.2%	1.0%	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	4.3%
Authors	83,000	86,000	77,000	71,000	72,000	64,000
Employed	82,000	85,000	75,000	70,000	71,000	62,000
Unemployed	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
Unemployment rate	.9%	.8%	2.6%	1.4%	1.4%	2.5%
Dancers	17,000	16,000	18,000	17,000	14,000	12,000
Employed	16,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	12,000	10,000
Unemployed	"	"	"	"	"	"
Unemployment rate	"	"	"	"	"	"
Designers	525,000	546,000	504,000	504,000	466,000	415,000
Employed	510,000	531,000	484,000	484,000	448,000	393,000
Unemployed	15,000	15,000	20,000	20,000	18,000	22,000
Unemployment rate	2.8%	2.7%	4.0%	3.9%	3.9%	5.2%
Musicians/Composers	158,000	177,000	171,000	163,000	174,000	170,000
Employed	151,000	169,000	164,000	152,000	161,000	155,000
Unemployed	7,000	8,000	7,000	11,000	13,000	15,000
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.7%	3.9%	6.5%	7.3%	8.6%
Painters/Sculptors/ Craft Artists/and Artist Printmakers	219,000	198,000	194,000	207,000	220,000	192,000
Employed	215,000	191,000	189,000	200,000	212,000	186,000
Unemployed	4,000	7,000	5,000	7,000	8,000	6,000
Unemployment rate	2.0%	3.4%	2.7%	3.2%	3.5%	3.3%
Photographers	121,000	131,000	131,000	134,000	128,000	119,000
Employed	117,000	126,000	127,000	129,000	123,000	113,000
Unemployed	4,000	5,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	6,000
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.0%	2.7%	3.5%	3.9%	5.0%
Teachers of Art, Drama, and Music (higher ed.)	49,000	41,000	43,000	42,000	41,000	43,000
Employed	48,000	40,000	42,000	41,000	40,000	42,000
Unemployed	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unemployment rate	2.7%	1.6%	1.9%	2.4%	2.4%	2.2%
Other Artists**	72,000	67,000	76,000	66,000	57,000	66,000
Employed	71,000	64,000	70,000	62,000	54,000	61,000
Unemployed	1,000	3,000	6,000	4,000	3,000	5,000
Unemployment rate	2.1%	4.5%	7.8%	5.6%	5.8%	7.1%

* Data base is too small for reliable estimate

** Not elsewhere classified

Note:

All the unemployment rates shown in the table (with the exception of the rates for 'All Artists') were calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using unrounded data.

Because these labor force statistics are based on a sample survey, they are subject to sampling errors. Relatively small changes in employment and unemployment in the smaller artist occupations are often not statistically significant. For a more detailed discussion, see Research Division Report #16, Artists Employment and Unemployment 1971-1980, Appendix B, "Reliability of Current Population Survey (CPS) Statistics."

Table 2. Trends in Artist Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment, 1983-1988

Occupation	Change, 1987-1988		Change, 1983-1988	
	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage
Total, All Civilian Workers	+1,804,000	+1.5	+10,119,000	+9.0
Employed	+2,528,000	+2.2	+14,134,000	+14.1
Unemployed	-724,000	-9.8	-4,016,000	-37.5
Unemployment rate	-.7%	-11.3	-4.1%	-42.7
Professional Specialty				
<u>Occupation</u>	+523,000	+3.6	+2,030,000	+15.4
Employed	+548,000	+3.8	+2,154,000	+16.9
Unemployed	-34,000	-11.3	-123,000	-33.3
Unemployment rate	-.3%	-15.0	-1.3%	-43.3
All Artists	-1,000	-.1	+256,000	+19.7
Employed	+2,000	+1	+283,000	+23.1
Unemployed	-3,000	-5.6	-26,000	-33.3
Unemployment rate	-.6%	-17.1	-3.1%	-51.7
Actors and Directors	+14,000	+14.3	+41,000	+57.7
Employed	+12,000	+13.0	+40,000	+66.6
Unemployed	+2,000	+20.0	+1,000	+9.1
Unemployment rate	+8%	+8.2	-5.1%	-32.5
Announcers	-6,000	-9.7	+15,000	+36.6
Employed	-7,000	-11.9	+14,000	+36.8
Unemployed	+1,000	+33.3	+1,000	+33.3
Unemployment rate	+1.7%	+36.2	-.3%	-4.5
Architects	+9,000	+6.0	+37,000	+34.3
Employed	+8,000	+6.0	+40,000	+38.9
Unemployed	+1,000	+100.0	-3,000	-60.0
Unemployment rate	+2%	+20.0	-3.1%	-72.1
Authors	-3,000	-3.5	+19,000	+29.7
Employed	-3,000	-3.5	+20,000	+32.3
Unemployed	--	--	--	--
Unemployment rate	+1%	+12.5	-1.6%	-64.0
Dancers	+1,000	+6.3	+5,000	+41.6
Employed	--	--	+6,000	+60.0
Unemployed	*	*	*	*
Unemployment rate	*	*	*	*
Designers	-21,000	-3.9	+110,000	+26.5
Employed	-21,000	-4.0	+117,000	+29.8
Unemployed	--	--	--	--
Unemployment rate	+1%	+3.7	-2.4%	-46.1
Musicians/Composers	-19,000	-10.7	-12,000	-7.1
Employed	-18,000	-10.7	-4,000	-2.6
Unemployed	-1,000	-12.5	-8,000	-53.3
Unemployment rate	-.1%	-2.1	-4.0%	-46.5
Painters/Sculptors/ Craft Artists/and Artist Printmakers	+21,000	+10.6	+27,000	+14.0
Employed	+24,000	+12.6	+29,000	+15.6
Unemployed	-3,000	-42.9	-2,000	-33.3
Unemployment rate	-1.4%	-41.2	-1.3%	-39.4
Photographers	-10,000	-7.6	+2,000	+1.7
Employed	-9,000	-7.1	+4,000	+3.5
Unemployed	-1,000	-20.0	-2,000	-33.3
Unemployment rate	-.4%	-10.0	-1.4%	-28.0
Teachers of Art, Drama, and Music (higher ed.)	+8,000	+19.5	+6,000	+14.3
Employed	+8,000	+20.0	+6,000	+14.3
Unemployed	--	--	--	--
Unemployment rate	+1.1%	+68.8	+5%	+22.7
Other Artists**	+5,000	+7.5	+6,000	+9.1
Employed	+7,000	+10.9	+10,000	+16.4
Unemployed	-2,000	-66.6	-4,000	-80.0
Unemployment rate	-2.4%	-53.3	-5.0%	-70.4

* Data base is too small for reliable estimate
 ** Not elsewhere classified
 -- Indicates no change occurred.

See note at bottom of Table 1.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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